

REMARKS

Applicant has amended claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 13, 14, 19, 21, 23, 28, 29 and 34. Applicant respectfully submits that these amendments to the claims are supported by the application as originally filed and do not contain any new matter. Accordingly, the Office Action will be discussed in terms of the claims as amended.

The Examiner has rejected claims 19, 21, 23 and 34 under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Yamamoto and Nishino and Mochizuki, stating that Yamamoto shows displaying three dimensional data as a combination of three sectional images of an X-section, Y-section and Z-section by processing three dimensional data obtained by imaging, but does not specifically say that the sections orthogonalize each other and does not necessarily show slicing the data at predetermined intervals; Nishino shows using orthogonal sections to each other to maximize utilization of the section information to make a model; Mochizuki shows efficient obtaining of the data by taking slices at regular intervals; and it would have been obvious to modify Yamamoto in view of the teachings of Nishino and Mochizuki.

In reply thereto, Applicant would like to first point that claims 19, 21, 23 and 34 all are directed toward "a list displaying mode". In the list of displaying mode, a display as is shown in Fig. 11 is made. Applicant respectfully submits that none of the art cited by the Examiner suggests such a list displaying mode for the reasons set forth below.

Applicant has carefully reviewed Yamamoto and respectfully submits that it relates to a three-dimensional image generating apparatus in which three-dimensional images are produced from a two-dimensional image as in the original image and it does not handle three-dimensional image prepared in advance, such as CT image data.

Applicant has further carefully reviewed Nishino and respectfully submits that Nishino merely describes a three-dimensional model cross-section specification system in which before cutting a three-dimensional model, the model is moved and rotated, then any of the three mutually orthogonal two-dimensional coordinate planes, namely the X-Y plane, the X-Z plane or the Z-X plane is selected to be cut.

Applicant has further carefully reviewed Mochizuki and respectfully submits that Mochizuki discloses a three-dimensional ultrasound image processing apparatus in which echo data is once stored in a two-dimensional memory per a scanning plane and thereafter it is written into a three-dimensional data memory. The echo data is a measured data for an object to be

imaged and is not a sectional plane prepared in advance according to a three-dimensional data. Still further, Applicant respectfully submits that the intervals shown in Mochizuki are merely the scanning intervals of the ultrasonic scanner and are not sections.

In view of the above, therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the combination suggested by the Examiner is not Applicant's invention. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 19, 21, 23 and 34 are not obvious over Yamamoto and Nishino and Mochizuki.

The Examiner has further indicated that claims 1-18, 20, 22, 24-33 and 35-36 are all allowable and Applicant accepts these allowed claims.

In view of the above, therefore, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered, favorably considered and the case passed to issue.

Please charge any additional costs incurred by or in order to implement this Amendment or required by any requests for extensions of time to KODA & ANDROLIA DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 11-1445.

Respectfully submitted,

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 William L. Androlia

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